# CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO TI-99/4A USERS GROUP


## New Meeting Place this Month
## Check inside for details


**January 1990**
**Editor: Bob Demeter**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

## The January Meeting...

**The January 1990 meeting will be at our new location. This is the St. Nicolai Church 3002 N. Kedzie Ave. Chicago, Ill. Meeting starts at 1pm.**

# Where it's at this month..


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## Group's BBS # 708 862-0182

## Group's Hot Line 708 869-4304

# Meeting Dates...

This month's meeting will be Saturday Jan. 6, 1990.

This will be our first meeting of the new decade. It's also our first meeting at St. Nicolai Church. This will be the new home for all our meetings. I understand food and drinks may be purchased before the meeting. You will find directions on page 1 of this newsletter. THANKS FOR THE MAP, GRANT!!!!! Sorry I ran out of space.

One more time. St. Nicolai Church is at 3002 N. Kedzie Chicago, Ill. This is on Kedzie and Wellington.


The Chicago TImes is published 10 TImes a year from Sept to June. Chicago TImes is in no way affiliated with Texas Instruments. We are supported solely by our membership and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership to the Chicago TI 99/4A User's Group. The Chicago TImes is also distributed free to any User's Group that wishes to reciprocate. Articles within these pages may be re-printed by other User's Group Publications provided credit is given the Chicago TImes as the original source of the article. Comments and letters are always welcomed. We also accept submissions of original articles and programs.

# A NEW MEETING PLACE!!!

As of our last meeting, The Chicago TI Users' Group has ceased to meet at the Broadview American Legion Hall, in Hillside, Illinois. Our January 6, 1990 meeting will be held in Chicago at the St. Nicolai Church, which is located at 3000 North Kedzie.

Kedzie is obviously the closest major north-south street. The church, being on the corner of Kedzie and Wellington is exactly between two major east-west streets, those streets being Belmont (3200 north) and Diversey (2800 north).

There are buses traveling down both Belmont and Diversey, but there is NO bus service on Kedzie on the weekend. I do believe that there is north-south bus service on Kimball, which is about four blocks west of Kedzie. In addition to the bus routes, there is a R.T.A. Rapid Transit train station about three blocks away. It is the Kennedy-O'Hare line, but you can get off at either the Belmont and Kimball Stop or the Logan Square Stop, as both are about the same distance from the church. The closest major highway is the Kennedy. If you get off at the Belmont exit, which is just before the Kennedy going north branches into the Edens, you will be two blocks north of the church.

It is clearly a very easy place to get to. It is more centrally located than our former meeting place, and it is also slightly cheaper for the club. But as we will still be paying for the use of the church's Fellowship Hall, we will still be requesting a voluntary donation from each of the attending members. If everyone chips in $1.00 apiece, we will easily be able to continue to cover this expense.

In addition to being well located, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to purchase food just before the meeting. One of the groups belonging to the church will be selling both food and soft drinks just before the meeting. This is a fine convenience for those members who must travel some distance, to attend our meetings, and this is especially helpful as most of us must travel during the traditional lunch hour.

I am looking forward to a good experience at this new location. I am especially glad that it will allow us to have our much missed S.I.G.s (Special Interest Groups). In fact, our January meeting will be devoted to the reformation of our S.I.G.s. The standard ones which we have had in the past have been the 9640 S.I.G., the business S.I.G. (which deals with both TI Writer and Multiplan), the very popular beginner's S.I.G., the Pascal S.I.G., and the education S.I.G. I might also mention that the SysOp of our bulletin board, Mike ("The Frogman") Maksimik, will be starting up a MIDI (Musical Instruments Digital Interface) S.I.G.

At our last Faire, he demonstrated how he has discovered how to interface a musical, digital keyboard directly to a 4A. At this S.I.G., he will be teaching others how they can do the same thing. (Other S.I.G.s can and will be formed if there is sufficient interest.) All in all, our new location should better meet our needs than did our last one. In fact, due to certain events, I am glad that we no longer need to meet in the above mentioned place. I feel that we have a better location, and we also have a member of the group, Deems Jensen (and his wife Georgette), who is on the space use committee of the church. I am confident that we can depend on him to intercede with the church in our behalf and act as an intermediary and communications link.

Here, I wish to mention that a member of our club, Ken Czerwinski, has informed me that a number of 4A cartridge-modules were donated to our group by our former

host, Triton College. The donated modules include Personal Record Keeping, Personal Report Generator, Statistics, Home Financial Decisions, Beginning BASIC Tutor, and maybe something else. These modules number approximately 40, and they will be additional door prizes for about the next four or five meetings. In fact, I expect that we will give at least 7 away at our January meeting. All members whose dues for 1990 are paid up are eligible, but you must be present to win!!! Please support our local meetings. You will surely benefit in many ways.

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# Presidential Dialogue

November, 2000. The Chicago TI-99/4A User Group's 17th Annual Faire opens today with the theme "17 years and still going strong".

Wishful thinking? Perhaps, but despite predictions, by some, this group still has a great future ahead of it. I'd like to thank the members of the group for giving me the opportunity to play a part in that future, as President for 1990.

I'd also like to thank Don Jones, for remaining on as Vice President, and in doing so making my job easier. Also to Jim Brooks, Lionel and Jeanette Bordelon, Bob Demeter and Mike Maksimik for staying with their positions and Oscar Bretana for agreeing, once again, to oversee the group's finances. Although Marcy Brun has chosen not to continue her role as group Secretary, she will remain on the Executive Board as Publicity Chairman. Carl Martikean becomes our newest chairman by assuming the position as coordinator for TI donated systems.

About the only positions we still need filled, at this point, are Secretary, Equipment Chairman and 1990 Faire Chairman. All of these jobs are extremely important. Please consider filling a vacancy, we really need you.

Speaking of the Faire (were we?). It has been decided that we will approach Holiday Inn about hosting the 8th Annual TI Faire. Although we experienced some minor problems, the overall reaction by the attendees was still very positive. The ability to have the show, guest lodgings and other faire related activities in one location makes for a nicer show. Contracts have not been signed yet so alternatives will still be considered.

Besides a new President, the new year also brings, with it, a new meeting place, St. Nicoli Church. Those of us who have been constantly annoyed by the distractive atmosphere of the Brickyard and American Legion locations can now rejoice. While this new location will mean additional driving time for some of us, it should provide an ideal atmosphere for initiating our Special Interest Groups. Anyone that has participated in a SIG understands that this is what a user group meeting is all about. Unlike a membership meeting, which has to be general by it's nature, SIGs are focused according to their member's interests.

As of this writing, Don has consented to head a Geneve SIG and Froggy a MIDI SIG. Please be considering what other SIGs you might like to take part in.

January's meeting will be for most parts an organizational meeting for that purpose. Also regarding January's meeting. I have availed myself of a provision in our Bylaws and purchased a copy of TI-BASE to use as the door prize for the upcoming meeting. To be eligible you must sign in when you attend the general meeting. I understand that Don will also have some items for door prizes.

As I said earlier, this group has a great future ahead of it. Join us at the January meeting and become a part of it.

-Ernie Pergrem

# TRADIN' TIMES

John McCain has a p-Code card for sale. He also has the necessary software and manuals. He is asking only $50.00 for the entire package. If you are interested, call him at (708)852-0085 evenings.

Randy Davenport has a system for sale. It includes the following:
a.) TI-99/4A console, b.) speech synthesizer, c.) P.E.B., 1 full height SS/SD disk drive, d.) 1 TI FDC, e.) 1 TI 32K memory card, f.) numerous cartridges with original manuals. He will take the BEST OFFER. He prefers to sell as a complete package, but he will separate parts if necessary. His address is 1823 East Calver Street, South Bend, Indiana 46613. His phone number is (219)232-1873. Call this man and make him an offer!!!

Al ("The Magnificent Stumper") Stump still has one 256K Horizon RAM disk left. He is asking $180.00 for it. If you are interested in it, please leave a message regarding it on the group's hot-line. Al will get back to you.

Ted Thomas has a system for sale, and he is willing to negotiate the price. His system contains two 4A consoles, a P.E.B., 2 SS/SD disk drives, a TI FDC, a TI 32K memory expansion card, a CorComp RS232, a speech synthesizer, a tape cassette player, a modem, Extended BASIC, and various pieces of software. If you are interested, you can reach him at home at (312)463-4318 or at work at (312) 987-4750. Call him and make him an offer!!!

If you want to buy or sell something, please drop a line to our newsletter.

# FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings
about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

December 1989

IT'S REALLY CHRISTMAS!

WHAT'S HOT:

TI-Base Mail List Manager, TI-Base Publications Index, The Organizer!, Page Pro Utilities, new Page Pro Pics, Pix Pro, Picasso Enlarger, Picasso Borders, JJ's newest version of BOOT and more.

TEXAMENTS:

Texaments has announced the availability of two new TI-Base command file applications for owners of TI-Base V2.0 or higher, with the impending release of

a third. Mail List Manager is a completely menu driven program for managing mail lists of any size. The program sports on-screen help, a custom data-input screen, a host of utilities, half a dozen ways to select the mailing label you want printed, auto-dialing of telephone numbers, report generation and more. Price should be under $15, not including shipping.

Publications Index is a preset data base that lets you key in data from your books, journals, magazines, newsletters and the like, so that you can go back and find something later instead of trying to thumb through all the material. The Publications Index is also completely menu driven and it too sports on-screen help, a custom data-input screen, a host of utilities and other useful features.

Perhaps one the most unique features of the PI program is that it is set up to print out the command files, from within the program, so that you can see how it's all done. The price on Publications Index should also be under $15, not including shipping.

The Organizer! is an electronic filing cabinet with four drawers. Both the cabinet and the drawer names are user modifiable, and you may create as many different filing cabinets as you like. The program is designed for the non-computer person who wants to file information electronically, but who is reluctant to tackle the rigors of learning data base management. The way that you would file things manually, is the way that The Organizer! handles information. But you still get all of the advantages of electronic data storage, from search and retrieval to report printing. Price on this one should also be under $15 without shipping.

Texaments
53 Center St.
Patchogue, New York 11772
516-345-2134

ASGARD:

Looks like GAP author Paul Scheidemantle has been hard at work lately. He has authored a package called Page Pro Utilities that is available from Asgard. The new package apparently includes an enlarger, which lets you enlarge, stretch, reduce, squeeze or ghost Page Pro pictures, a stripper, that is designed to remove the dead spaces around Page Pro pictures to save disk space, a flipper, that lets you flip pictures for greeting cards and such, and a line font editor for borders. If you are a Page Pro owner, which I am, it sounds like this is a MUST. Price is 14.95 plus .75 shipping.

Apparently Page Pro author Ed Johnson has V1.5 ready. It is said to contain improved text merging, a disk cataloging option (thank you!!) and a screen "clip" feature that lets you save any part of a Page Pro page as a picture.

-But wait! There's more. Jim Reiss has updated TypeWriter 99 so that it has autorepeat keys and added printer interface support. He is also putting the final touches on LINK, a new terminal Emulator in a module, that is designed to give console-only owners all of the high tech features disk drive users have with 4A/TALK, TELCO and the like.

David Bishop has two new adventure modules out, Wizard's End and Witch's Brew, Jim Ken Gilliland will be releasing "Search for the True King", a game where you must find the REAL Elvis Presley among all the Elvis Clones and finally, a new game called Boulder Dash, which Asgard claims utilizes a heretofore undiscovered graphics mode on the 99/4A should be out soon.

Asgard Software
Box 10306
Rockville, Md. 20849
703-255-3085

BOOT:

-John Johnson released a new version of his fabulous BOOT program on October 16, 1989, that promises to please just about everyone. Not that I have ever heard ANY complaints about previous releases. The new program is feature-packed and is in two segments as opposed to the 30 odd sectors consumed by the older versions. BOOT now has the ability to catalog your Hard Disk (thanks, John!), run programs directly from a disk that has been cataloged, view files directly from a disk that has been cataloged and much more. Built in CALLs include CALL MDM which is designed to load Myarc's HFDC disk manager. On my system I can load MDM, but it doesn't work. Every function errors out, which has always been the case with JJ's MENU program when used to load MDM. The only success that I have had to date is to load FunnelWeb and boot MDM5 through the FW loaders. That allows me to access my hard disk manager without having to take the XB cartridge out of the GROM port, which I hate doing. At any rate, the new version is superlative and yet another example of the programming prowess of one of the 99/4A and 9640's strongest supporters. The version number of boot by the way is 10/16/89, yes, that's right. The release date has been used as the version number.

DISCOVERIES:

-In the June MICROpendium I wrote a letter to the editor correcting an erroneous perception from an article in the March issue that Gene Hitz of Arcade Action Software was a new entity in the 4A community. Well I have since discovered that Gene has been a supporter of the TI even longer than I thought. Besides being one of the original contributors of user written software in the early days of the IUG's program exchange library, Gene also founded the PROGRAM INNOVATORS in February 1982, before Arcade Action Software went into business. How's that for loyalty and support? How about returning the support by contacting Mr. Hitz reference his product line of 99/4A software?

Arcade Action Software
4122 N. Glenway
Wauwautosa, Wi. 53222

-I have discovered yet another teenage assembly language wizard in the 99/4A community. His name is Quinton Tormanen and he hails from Washington state. He tackled the assembly language manual at 11, and now at 14 he has produced a couple new games that are superb; Living Tomb and War Zone. Both are available from Comprodine and appear in their full-page ad in the October 1989 MICROpendium. I also hear rumblings of a new product being worked on by Paul Coleman but I have nothing more on it for now. Stay tuned.

Comprodine
1949 Evergreen Ave.
Fullerton, Ca. 92635
714-990-4577

-A 99/4A enthusiast has uploaded a copy of SuperCheck by Down-Home Computer Craft to the TI-SIG on GEnie. I plucked it off the board to see what it was all about, remembering the Down-Home Computer Craft name from old 99er/Home Computer Magazine ads. I don't know if the program is actually public domain or not, but the uploader states that he has tried to contact the folks at the address

displayed in the program, with no luck. Anyway, I found it to be an interesting program, if not a great one. Even so, it was nice to see some "trivia" from the past and to be able to associate an actual product with a former 99/4A supporter. Contrary to the belief cf many, I have found some superior software (especially games) that was produced in the "early days".

-Since compiling the original list of 99/4A word processors and spreadsheets, I have discovered a couple more for the list. In the word processor category I completely overlooked HCJ Word, a one-page text editor by David Brader, that appeared in Home Computer Journal Vol 1, Num 2. In the spreadsheet category, I recently discovered an XB program named TI Short Sheet, by Glen Bernasek. It operates much like 99Calc and other XB spreadsheets and is available for download from GEnie and perhaps other TI-SIGS.

-Here's a new one for me at least. Did you know that you can convert upper case text to lower case text in the FunnelWeb Editor by using the Ctrl Period keys? I didn't. Letters, entire words, and even whole sentences can be converted by simply placing the cursor where the conversion is to begin, and then pressing and holding Control Period. The cursor moves from left to right, making lower case text out of upper case text, with no effect on anything but the letter characters of the alphabet. In other words, it does not modify the symbols like slashes, plus signs, asterisks etc. Just the letters. I discovered it on V4.10 and have no idea if it works with earlier or later versions. TI-Writer's Editor does nothing with the Cntrl Period key, the RAG Writer Editor uses it to go to the end of the file without having to do a Show End command, so only FW seems to have the feature. I'm not sure just how useful it is, but it's one more little nicety that the McGoverns' have given the TI Community.

TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-There were several game and education modules planned for the 99/4A that never made it to market, I assume because of the bailout? I know that they were planned because I have working copies of the code, that can be run out of Gram Kracker. Here's a list of the ones that I have come across (compliments of Gary Cox from the Mid-South 99ers).

WINGWARS by Imagic- which is a fantasy type adventure with superb graphics along the line of Super Demon Attack. You are the central character in the adventure and you fly around the caves, caverns and battlefields on your winged horse, spitting out some type of fireball from the horse's mouth to defend yourself.

E.T. and HIS ADVENTURE AT SEA by Looking Glass- is an educational game that uses a map of the world (which has superb detail) as a base. You must pilot your boat, in which E.T. is a passenger, around the world, trying to get him to the secret landing site where a spaceship will come to take him home. All the while there is lightning, typhoons and other hazards that you must avoid.

MOUSE ATTACK by Don Fitchorn through Sierra On-Line- is a MunchMan type game where you steer through a maze leaving a marked trail that must cover all the corridors, while you try to avoid being eaten by the vicious mice. Nice graphics and responsiveness, even to the keyboard. The theme is a little limp though.

MANCALA by AldeBran (a German outfit I believe)- is perhaps the weirdest game that I have ever played. It involves moving a series of stones from one set of six boxes to another set of six boxes. Although there were no on-screen instructions, it appears that you must complete the task in the fewest number of turns, with the greatest amount of dexterity. When you set the game in motion, it

takes off on its own and you must press the spacebar to drop the stones where you want them without any control over the speed of the box that has picked the stones up. If I understood all that I should about the game, it would probably be a really good one. But without any instructions it was tough enough to figure out how to make it do "anything".

VONDRAKES MOLECULAR MISSION by Walt Disney Studios- is one of the neatest educational games I have EVER seen. It has to be geared at the teen to adult age group though, because it teaches you, in the most entertaining fashion, chemical formulas for compounds and the like. It certainly doesn't appear to be something that my 10 year old could conquer.

PLANT GENETICS by Texas Instruments- This one is not a game module but strictly an educational one. It is copyrighted 1984 by Texas Instruments, so I guess that's why it never came to market. WHAT A SHAME! Although it is mostly text, the program is just SUPERB!!! It is like going through the encyclopedia for information on the topic, only its all here in one place, instead of having to do the research on it. If we could only convince TI to go back and make modules like this one again. Before seeing it in the flesh, I had never even heard of this program. If this is a sample of what TI had in the works for future educational stuff then we really lost out when the 99/4A was orphaned. The program contains three different levels of learning on the topic and it covers them in a simple, understandable manner. I learned more about heredity, dominant and recessive traits, phenotypes and genotypes in the few minutes that I spent with the program than all of the years I spent in school and college. Neat program!

-Although it never came to be, Walt Disney Productions actually advertised their support for the 99/4A, claiming that as many as 50 programs were forthcoming for Ataris, Radio Shack, NEC and TI computers?

-Of all the "Home Computers" ever produced, the Commodore VIC-20 sold the most units? This, despite the fact that it had only 4K and a 22 column screen. Goes to show what marketing can do I guess. How come no one at TI ever realized people might prefer a computer that had 16K instead of 4K? That's why I bought my first TI. Although I knew next to nothing about computers, I knew right away that 16 was "bigger" than 4. Seems like little or no effort was ever made to sell the 99/4 or 4A on the fact that it was far more advanced technologically. Another TI blunder. What a shame.

-Amiga Corporation, the same company that Commodore bought out to get the Amiga Computer into its product line, made a joystick specifically for the 99/4A called the Power-Stick? It needed no adapter since it was configured like TI's wired-remote controllers, with two sticks funneling into one connector. In September 1983 the Power Stick sold for $20 although I have never seen one.

THIS MONTH IN TI-99 HISTORY:

<1981>

TIHOME TIdings magazine ends policy of free issues to British 99ers.

<1982>

TI decides to extend the $100 rebate program until April 15, 1983.

-Microsoft Multiplan for the 99/4A becomes a reality when the final bugs in the 4A version of the program are worked out. First actual showings of the program don't begin until March 1983 though.

-TI purchases Super Bugger from Navarone Industries.

-The 99/4(A) Program Exchange, that IUG president Charles LaFara would later be involved in a copyright infringement against, appears in Torrence, Ca.

-Myarc introduces it 5 and 10 megabyte hard disk drives for the 99/4A.

-New Horizons Users Group forms.

-Model Masters announces Disk Manager 2 on disk with promises of the cartridge version to follow shortly.

<1983>

-99er Magazine fails to appear with the December issue, supposedly because of a problem with advertisers after the TI announcement of October 28th stating that 99/4A production would end.

-Emerald Valley Publishing announces an upcoming book, due out in January 1984, entitled "The Best of 99er".

-Jim Robinson 1778 Hays Dr. Louisville, Colorado, attempts to unite 99/4A users into an International 99/4A Users Group similar to the original IUG in Bethany, Oklahoma.

<1984>

Compute!'s "TI Collection Volume 1" is released by Compute! Books.

-TI receives the "Warped Disk" award from Popular Computing for its decision to orphan the 99/4A.

<1985>

Clint Pulley's c99 is announced to the world when Michael Jaegermann discovers the new language and posts notice of it on The Source.

-GRAM KRACKERS are delivered before the Christmas holidays as promised.

-Asgard Software becomes the first TI99 vendor to offer products on Electronic Mall on CompuServe.

-Navarone moves to Dallas, Texas.

-Daniel Norling, long time member of the LA 99ers, and author of the first proofreader for TI-Base/XB, dies.

<1986>

CorComp introduces first commercially made load-interrupt switch for use with 99/4A modules.

<1987>

MDOS V1.0 for the Geneve is released.

-New Day Computing in England, and the 99/4A National Assistance Group are put on the "hit" list as businesses to look out for, as both have failed to deliver paid for products to customers.

-Galen Read, of Innovative Programming, maker of Writer Ease and Console Calc, announces that his company is changing the focus of its business and is moving away from the TI market.

-Asgard Software releases Recipe Writer V2.0

-Rave 99 announces that it will produce a ram disk for the 99/4A.

-Robert C. Holland, 6188 Caminito Baeze San Diego, Ca. 92122 announces a TI/IBM file transfer program available for the cost of two DS/DD diskettes.

-McWare Products, Box 2784 Fairfax, Va. 22031, announces Fast and Easy Tutor, a disk and booklet for the Star NX10.

-First commercially published article on how to put Extended Basic in the 99/ 4A console appears in MICROpendium.

-BA-Writer V1.4 is released.

<1988>

In a teleconference on Genie's TI-SIG, Asgard Software owner Chris Bobbitt outlines the features of the new PRESS word processor from Charles Earl.

-TI-Base V2.0 is released.

-Myarc announces that work on the tape streamer software for hard disk back up is to begin.

-Eric Zeno of Pittsburgh, Pa. announces the "Internal Board", a board designed to be used inside the 4/A console, that will provide 32K, a clock and more.

-Donaldson Software, of Quebec, Canada, announces several new cassette games for the 99/4A.

-Dick Altman turns the management of his "Fairware List" over to Steve Mehr.

FAREWELL:

-With a pang of regret gnawing away at me already, I have decided to put Four-A/Talk to rest. Installment number 12, a full year, will be the last. As with many 99ers before me, time is the culprit. Of late, I seem to have less and less of it for those "other" things in life like a wife and two kids, not to mention golfing, skiing and a host of other recreational activities that people live in Colorado for.

I must say that I have enjoyed the endeavor and have received nothing but positive feedback in return for my support of the many Users Groups who receive the articles from me each month. Most notably, I would like to thank Gary Cox of the Mid-South 99ers, Bob Demeter and Don Jones of the Chicago TIUG, Steve Mehr and Terrie Masters of the LA 99ers, Ida McCarger and BJ Mathis of the SouthWest

99ers and Cliff Swank of the Front Range 99ers. All have been very kind to me and have played a major role in keeping the fires burning during the last year. Thanks, folks! I hope that I have at least provided some interesting reading.

See you at Fest-West in Tucson!

# 1990 PROGRAMING CONTEST !

FOR THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT TI99/4A HOME COMPUTER AND MYARC GENEVE / 9640

The CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP is having a programing contest. Here is the run-down !

- STARTED AND GOING ON NOW! Last entry accepted on 04-01-1990 .
- JUDGED IN APRIL 1990 .
- WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY,1990 CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP MEETING & IN NEWSLETTER
- PRIZES WILL BE:
- FIRST PRIZE = $100.00
- SECOND PRIZE = $75.00
- THIRD PRIZE = $50.00
- FORTH to TENTH PRIZES WILL BE A COMPLETE COPY OF ALL ENTRIES (WOW !)
  THINK ABOUT IT! 4th - 10th PRIZES WILL PROBABLY BE BETTER THEN THE 1st THREE
  I'M GOING FOR MORE THAN 200 ENTRIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

IN ANY LANGUAGE THAT CAN BE USED, LOGO,ASSEMBLY,FORTH,BASIC, EXTENDED BASIC,c , P , G ,PILOT, SUPER FORTH , SST , ASPIC , PASCAL & etc. .
Did I miss any of them ? Any language that the computers can use, With or without any cartridge . (MINIMEM - TE-II - ADVENTURE - TUNNELS OF DOOM - SUPER CART ) Well, If I can't review them, I'll get help. The reviews will be in the newsletter. All entries will be reviewed and commented on and numbered .

No matter how large or small any program is, it will be entered . Any age is acceptable . I do not want to know any ages .

**********

All entries will become property of the CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP LIBRARY. And will become part of the library .

**********

Programs should be coming in from all over the world.
AUSTRALIA , CHINA , SOUTH AMERICA , NORTH AMERICA , EUROPE & AFRICA .
There are programmer's and users all over the world.

Any and all entries will be mailed to me at my home or to THE CHICAGO USERS GROUP . To my attention . OR , If you wish , I have a 1200 baud MODEM. VOICE first ! I'LL GIVE ALL THAT INFORMATION AT THE END OF THIS.

Now just a word on your programs !
There are some people who tell me that I ain't got a chance of getting more then twenty programs . Well, I have more confidence in the people who still play and use our computers. Show them all that we are still alive , well and still loving out toy computers. There is no limit of how many entries you can put in. Send them in on DISK (S.S.S.D.) or TAPE . Or MODEM (1200 baud max) .

The CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP BBS PHONE NUMBER is 1-708-862-0182
MY COMPUTER phone number is 1-708-755-0051 .
O K , That is in case that you want to modem your program in.

Now so that you can mail or bring it in :

TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI
3607 WALLACE
STEGER,ILLINOIS
60475 U.S.A.
Att . PROGRAMING CONTEST

OR Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago,Ill. 60657 U.S.A.
#46
att : PROGRAMING CONTEST

If you are going to use the GROUP's address, PLEASE send it before MARCH.

P.S. I think this is a chance for you to win a good mess of programs for yourself or for your USERS GROUP.

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It has been said to me that some people think that I am wrong with what I said ."All entries will become the property of the CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP LIBRARY. AND WILL BECOME PART OF THR LIBRARY." That's the way it is. If you are selling your programs thru a vendor. Then keep doing it. This is not meant to get any of the COPY-RIGHTED PROGRAMS. We have some of the FREE-WEAR programs in the library now. Not all of it. This programing contest is open to the users of our computers. And we want you who feel that you must keep your COPY-RIGHTED programs copy-righted, to do just that.

To the others that do not put a copy-right on their programs. Send them in! This is made for all of us. It gives us a chance to do something good for the other guy or gal who struggles to get it going and keep it going. If you stopped to think. You might see that this is two kinds of a contest. ONE is to see how good some of us got playing with our computer. TWO is to see how many of us still program on our computer.

If there are any of you who still program in any way, DO IT NOW !
BELIEVE ME , THE TIME IS NOW ! IF YOU WAIT UNTIL MARCH,1990 , IT MIGHT NOT GET TO ME IN TIME .
In fact, MARCH,1,1990 MUST BE THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR THE USERS GROUP BBS & THE P.O.BOX 578341. The reason is that if your entry might not get to me until it is to late if you send it there past the date. The way it stands now. THE FIRST THREE PRIZES ARE WON. WHY ? BECAUSE THAT IS ALL THAT HAVE ENTERED IT. 3 PROGRAMS ! Go ahead, Give it to them. You don't need the money or the programs. Tell you what. I'm going to get some kind of a program in to the contest. I'm not one of the judges of the contest. I can enter it too. If you don't want the money, I'll take it!

JUST REMEMBER ! THE MONEY IS THERE. I'LL TAKE IT IF YOU DON'T !

---

THE REVIEW !

#2 IS A BOOK ON DISK .

#3 IS A CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM .

It would be a kick in the tail if I were beat-out by my own kid. And you didn't even try for the prizes .

Thanks all ! TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI #46 PROGRAMING CONTEST CHAIRMAN .

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SEASON'S GREETING TO ALL FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS

by James Brooks

First to wish you all a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This being the first newsletter for the new year, I want to thank all of the members that have renewed their memberships for 1990. I especially want to greet the New

Members to the Chicago TI 99/4A Users' Group. This is the beginning of our 8th year in existence and still going. TI is not dead yet.

The last meeting for 1989 was well attended for the swap meet. There were many bargains to be had by all that attended. This month we are meeting at a new place, St.Nicoli Church, at 3002 N.Kedzie Ave. in Chicago,IL. This is located just about 3 blocks from the expressway exit at Belmont.

We are planning to have the SIG's renewed as we will have the separate areas to have them. Volunteers needed (experienced in various areas) to run these SIG's.

Now is the time to renew as of December 31,1989, your subscription will be in jeopardy of expiration if you have not renewed.

Check your mailing address on your label. Have you moved during the past year? Did you notify us to change your address? If not, please send us a change of address card in order that we will have the correct information in our files.

Bye for now. See you at the next meeting.

TIME TO RENEW TIME TO RENEW TIME TO RENEW TIME TO RENEW TIME

---

# TI-BASE TIPS

Questions and Answers

Bill Gaskill

A few questions have been funneled my way recently regarding TI-Base, that I thought I should share with others. The first two questions come from Martin Zeddies in Wolfsburg, West Germany;

Question 1: How can I load a TI-Base data file from the value stored in a LOCAL, so that I can prompt the user for a file name and then have that routine do the loading?

Answer 1: The answer is you CAN'T do it. At least not in any current version. It will likely appear in V3.0, but neither V2.03 (which is the most current TI-BASE release that I have) nor any previous releases support data file loading with a variable name.

Question 2: I am having a problem with the F9 (Escape) keypress causing a return to the dot prompt when exiting the APPEND mode, instead of returning to the command file that access to the APPEND mode originated from. In other words, each time APPEND is exited, the F9 keypress causes the exit to pass right through the command file and continues on until the dot prompt appears.

Answer 2: The answer is to run the APPEND mode from a command file that is placed (nested) between your MENU (if that is what is supposed to appear upon exiting APPEND) and the actual APPEND mode. That way, when you press F9 it has another "layer" of command files to RETURN through before it gets to the MENU. For example, command file MENU/C runs command file ADD/C, then command file ADD/C runs command file APPEND/C. Command file APPEND/C contains the APPEND command that actually calls up the routine to add records to the file. Here is some example code for the command files just mentioned.

```
* menu
SET TALK OFF
SET RECNUM OFF
```

```
SET HEADING OFF
CLEAR
LOCAL B C 1
WHILE B <> "X"
CLEAR
WRITE 04,15 "SYSTEM MENU"
WRITE 06,08 "ENTER:"
WRITE 08,08 "A  TO  ADD NEW DATA"
WRITE 09,08 "C      CHANGE A RECORD"
WRITE 10,08 "D      DISPLAY A RECORD"
WRITE 12,08 "X      eXit THE PROGRAM"
READSTRING 06,14 B
IF B = "X"
  CLEAR
  CLOSE
  RETURN
ELSE
  DOCASE
    CASE B="A"
    DO ADD
    BREAK
    CASE B="C"
    DO CHANGE
    BREAK
    CASE B="D"
    DO DISPLAY
    BREAK
    CASE 1=1
    REPLACE B WITH "Z"
    BREAK
  ENDCASE
  IF B<>"Z"
  CLEAR
  ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDWHILE
RETURN


* add
DO APPEND
RETURN


* append
APPEND
RETURN
```

In this case when you press F9 a RETURN from APPEND/C is done to ADD/C. ADD/C then RETURNs to MENU/C. If you hold the F9 keys down long enough you will go clear through the nesting of the command files and still will end up at the dot prompt, so just tap the F9 keys to exit. Don't hold them down too long. That way you shouldn't have any problems.

The next two questions come from Fred Moore in Los Angeles, Ca.

Question 3: Is there a way to run FunnelWeb or TI-Sort without leaving TI-Base?

Answer 3: As a practical matter, the answer is no. You cannot load FunnelWeb or TI-Sort or any other program for that matter, from within TI-Base, without leaving the TI-Base environment. I'm not sure that you would want to even if you could. Aside from the fact that TI-Base uses so much of the available ram (both in the 32K card and console VDP) that there really is nothing left for anything else anyway, unless the loader/linker used could clear that memory space out before trying to load the other programs on top of TI-Base, you would probably end up with a locked up computer. The easiest solution is to have TI-Base, FunnelWeb and TI-Sort all on a Horizon Ram Disk with the John Johnson Menu (that Bud Mills includes with each one). Then, as long as you have the Menu configured to appear every time the computer is turned on, instead of the color bar screen, going from one program to another is a matter of seconds. Literally, seconds. TI-Base loads from the HRD in 6 seconds, FunnelWeb about the same, and TI-Sort less than half that time.

In looking at alternatives to that option, you would have to be able to use some external link from within TI-Base to call either those programs, or some file that could call those programs. Right now, meaning in V2.03, which is the most current version of TI-Base that I have, the only external links in use are the ones that call up the TUTOR II files, but those are INT/FIX files, the link to a command file via the DO or MODIFY commands, which are DV/80 files and the program segments that are called from the OVRLAY/P file on the TI-Base disk such as CATALOG, FORMAT, SNAP etc. INT/FIX files do us no good because the 99/4A doesn't recognize them as being executable. That means that the TUTOR II and OVRLAY/P external links are out. I believe what is needed is the ability to call a DIS/FIX file or a PROGRAM IMAGE file in order to RUN FunnelWEb or TI-Sort. The only way that I can think of, that could possibly make that occur, is via Mike Maksimik's FDOS, Monty Schmidt's COMMAND DOS, or Joe Ross's cSHELL99. Both of the DOS programs have Batch File capability and might be used to "somehow" execute a PROGRAM IMAGE file via the DV/80 batch file. Unfortunately, I am not aware of how. cSHELL99 can be used to load TI-Base already, as could the DOS programs I suppose, but it gets lost in the shuffle of files when TI-Base is loaded. The DOS programs both operate out of SuperCart or Gramulator/Gram Kracker type devices, so they could have some very strong potential for accomplishing what you want to do, since they don't share the same RAM that TI-Base does. But again, I just don't know how to make that sort of thing happen.

Question 4: I would like to put TI-Base, TI-Sort, FunnelWeb and the (TI-Base) command files on my 512 Ram DSK5. The problem I am having is that TI-Base won't recognize the command files. When I try a DO or MODIFY command, I get a "Bad Open Attribute" error message.

Answer 4: Because Fred's letter doesn't specify which version of TI-Base he is using or which ram disk he has, it is difficult to assess where the problem lies. If the TI-Base being used is below V2.02, try upgrading to 2.02 or 2.03 if that is commercially available. Prior versions down to V2.0 work on the Horizon Ram Disk without problems, as long as Menu and ROS V7.3 or higher is being used. ROS 6.4 causes problems for TI-Base in any version. V2.02 has a REALLY obscure bug in it that causes an error to occur on external file access when the CATALOG feature is called from a command file, but it RUNs command files perfectly from any medium that I am aware of. V2.03 works on Horizons and on Hard Disks, so it will probably work on anything.

-One last tip. Did you realize that TI-SORT "cleans up" an existing TI-BASE data file when it rewrites the newly sorted file? Just as doing a file-by-file copy from one disk to a newly formatted second disk unfractures fractured files, TI-SORT will create contiguous records on your data disk for faster access. Just another benefit from this great piece of software.

# THE EVOLUTION OF A CLOCK

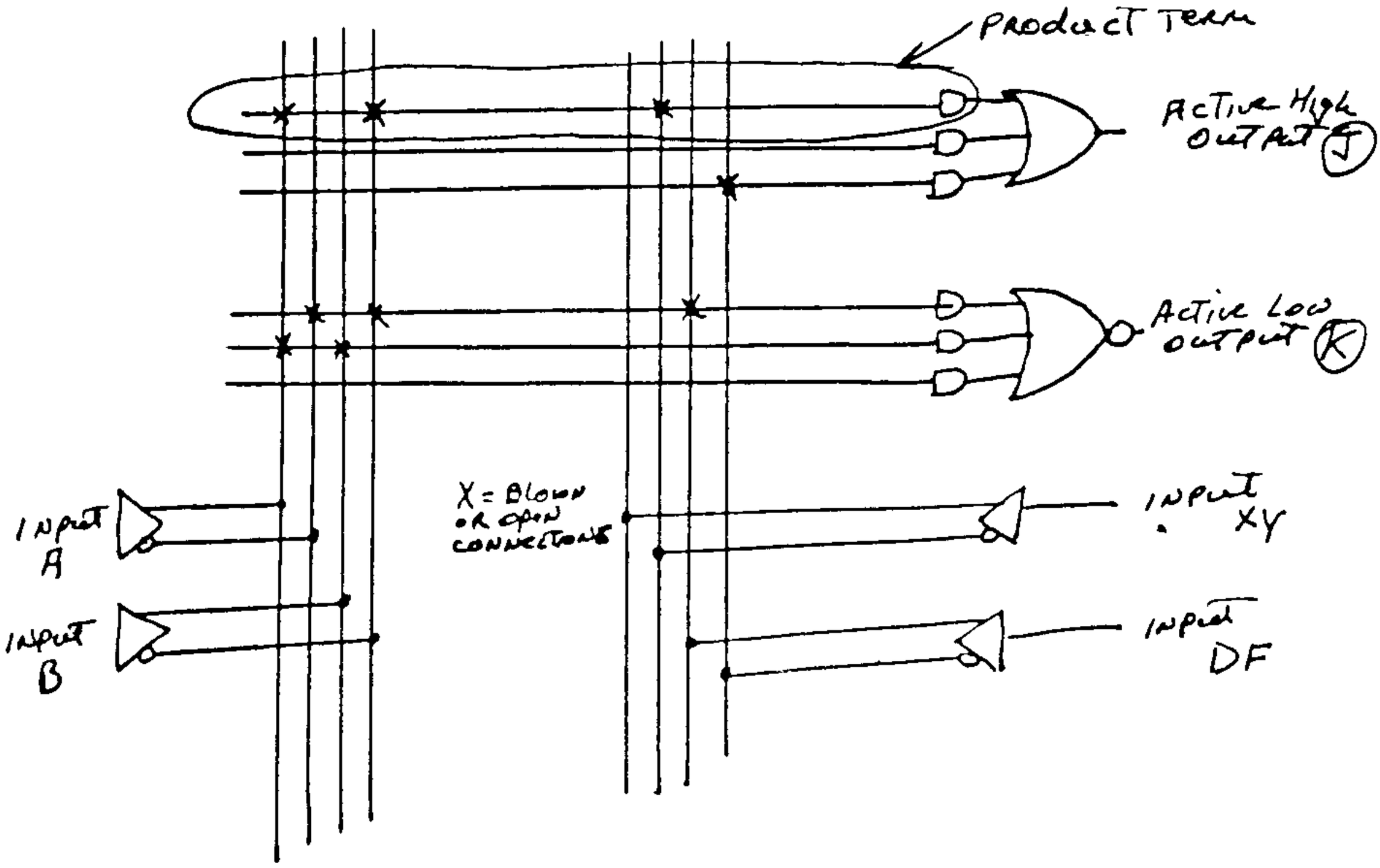
## — or, Where'd the IC's go?

After the Portable TI project was done, I wasn't interested in seeing the inside of a console ever again! But wouldn't you know, even though I started out in a direction nowhere even remotely in the direction of the Portable, I end up with a project that ends up with a change to the Portable! This project started out in the middle of the Portable. Remember that I got stuck for about 4 months trying to build a plug in module that would let me emulate a disk controller card, but it ended up being a dead end? Well I was so impressed with the PAL (Programmable Array Logic IC), that I started reading anything I could get my hands on about this device. What I learned was that this device is so powerful that I decided to put a hold on a project that was already in the works, (A modification to the Promburner so that it could program 12v proms). I learned that I could implement many different circuits within a PAL, and condense a project as well! (See, I am already moving toward a Portable-related project.

As a quick overview, a PAL is a device that has a number of inputs and outputs. For this example, to keep it simple, we will consider a simple device. One with 12 inputs, and 6 outputs. Each of the inputs goes to each of the pal output(s). However, it is how they are connected and how they are "programmed" that is the interesting part. In each output there are usually two or more "product terms" (rows of inputs to an output), each with all 12 inputs attached to it. When "programmed", the un-needed connections from the inputs are literally "blown away" by the programming voltage. In other words, you do BURN a PAL. Once programmed, the remaining connections to each "product term" can be described by a mathematical equation. Each "product term" (again, it is simply one of the rows of inputs connected to the output) can be explained this simply: Any of the inputs connected to the same product term are "AND'ed" together. Each of the Product terms are "OR'd" together. The mathematics involved in these PALS is BOOLEAN ALGEBRA, and I guarantee you I have no intention of trying to explain that, that is REAL HEADACHE MATERIAL! I need to explain one more thing before I continue on, and that is that EACH input can be treated normally, or inverted, if needed. (Please see drawing #1 for a sample PAL drawing.)

I was becoming quite impressed with this device, but how could I put it to work for me? I glanced over to my workbench where a protoboard containing a nearly finished MBP Clock circuit sat, and it hit me: I WOULD CONDENSE THE MBP CLOCK (just the clock) CIRCUIT TO AS SMALL AMOUNT OF DEVICES AS POSSIBLE! So another project was born! I started in by trying to determine what the mathematical equation would be for the various logic circuits of the MBP clock schematic. (Please refer to the schematic of the clock when I refer to it.) There are two 74LS138 chips, and they will be referred to as: "The 138 chip, pin 11, 13, or 14." I needed to determine the mathematical equation for Pins 13, 14, the and gate at the 74LS08 pin 3, and the inverter (74LS368 pin 3). In order to do this, I would have to refer to the logic "Truth Table" in a IC manual. (Refer to the truth table for the 74LS138). The output for pin 11 is LOW, and to make the output low, the inputs must be as follows: Pin 1 low, 2 low, 3 high, 4 low, 5 low, 6 high. Then and only then will pin 11 go low. This translated to the signals going to this chip is: /pin11 = /A2 * /A1 * A0 * //MEMEN * /A3 * A6 See the "/", when you see this, say "NOT", (meaning the inverse of).

Also see that there are two "/" in front of MEMEN. Two of these cancel themselves, so: //MEMEN = MEMEN. Unfortunately, the output at pin 11 is not enough to do anything, as its output becomes an input for another 74LS138 chip.




Equations For Above "PAL"

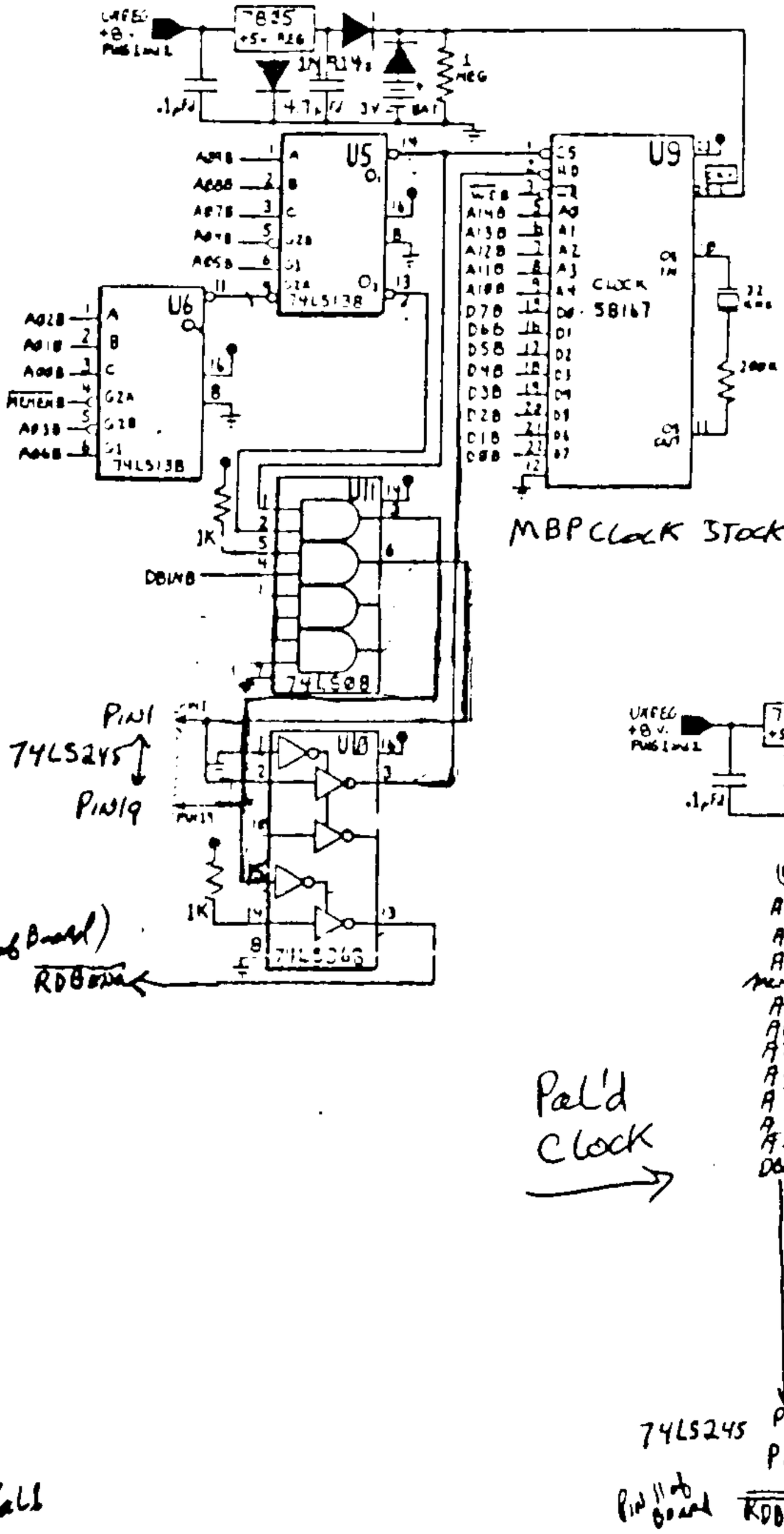
$$J = (\overline{A} \cdot B \cdot XY) + DF$$

$$\overline{K} = (A \cdot B \cdot DF) + (\overline{A} \cdot \overline{B})$$

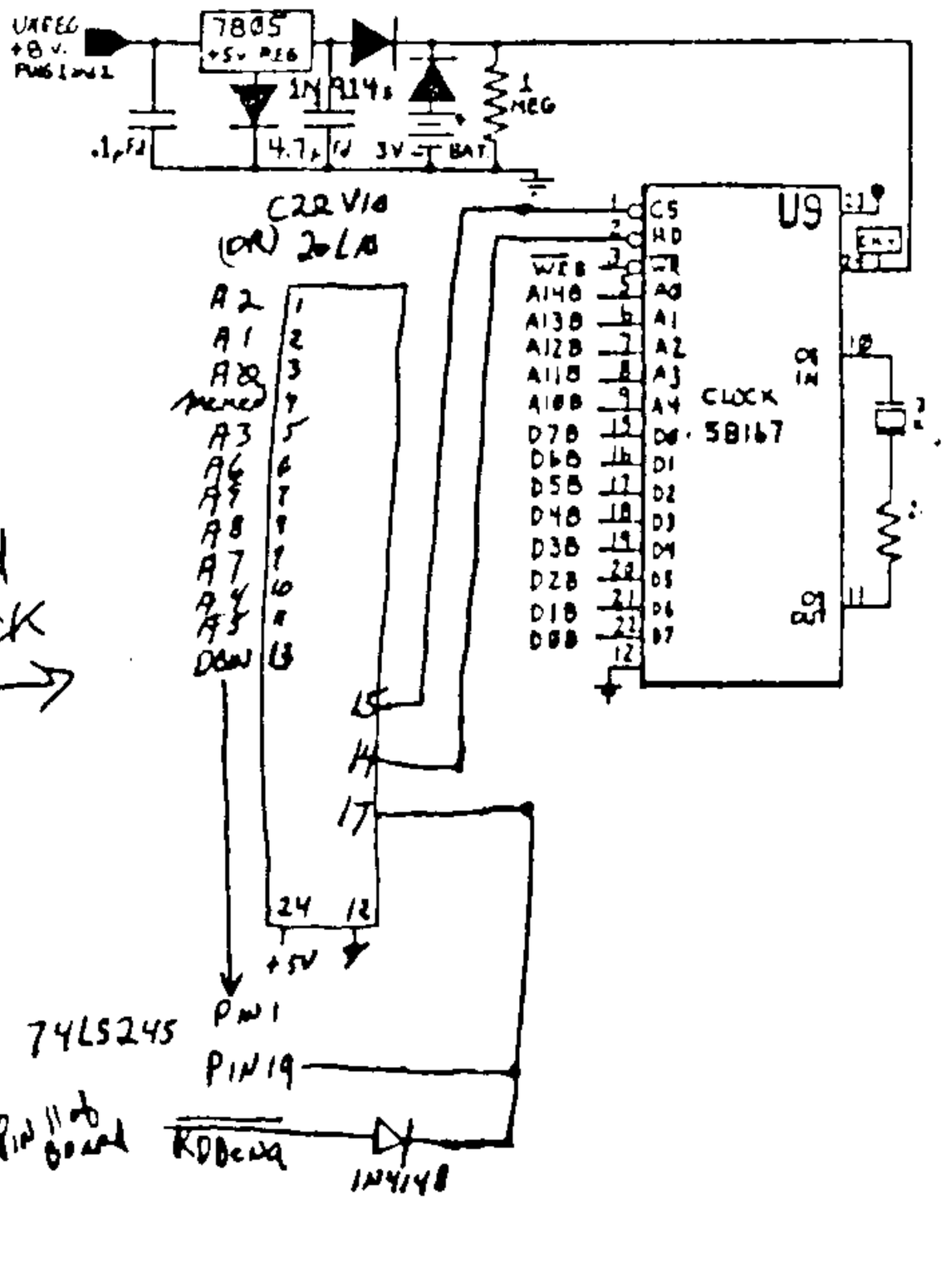
74LS138 Truth Table

| INPUT | | | | | OUTPUTS | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5/4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 7 |
| X | H | X | X | X | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H |
| L | X | X | X | X | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H |
| H | L | L | L | L | L | H | H | H | H | H | H | H |
| H | L | L | L | H | H | L | H | H | H | H | H | H |
| H | L | L | H | L | H | H | L | H | H | H | H | H |
| H | L | L | H | H | H | H | H | L | H | H | H | H |
| H | L | H | L | L | H | H | H | H | L | H | H | H |
| H | L | H | L | H | H | H | H | H | H | L | H | H |
| H | L | H | H | L | H | H | H | H | H | H | L | H |
| H | L | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | L |

X = Don't care
H = High = +5V
L = Low = 0V




"MBP Clock Stock"




Pal'd Clock →

For Pal'd

To simplify, I will list the proper equations for the 4 circuits that are necessary to REPLACE ALL THE LOGIC IC'S FOR THE MBP CLOCK CIRCUIT! If you take these equations to someone who can convert them to a file used for programming 20L10 or C22V10 PALS and you can then follow the schematic as shown. With this, you will have made a Clock for your TI computer, and it will only need six chips, and since four of them are buffers, you can say that your entire clock was made with TWO chips!

Notes for the Equations: Pin numbers and signal names of the PAL is as follows:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A2 | A1 | A0 | /MEMEN | A3 | A6 | A9 | A8 | A7 | A4 | A5 | GND |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| DBIN | O14 | O15 | O16 | O17 | O18 | O19 | O20 | O21 | O22 | O23 | VCC |

Another note: The outputs are indicated by their pin number. O17 means "Output Pin 17". Also note that /O17 means active low output, and O17 means active high output for the indicated equation.

The Equations for the PAL-Based MBP Clock are as follows. Please refer to the PAL CLOCK schematic for reference.

```
 O14 = /DBIN   (Note here that this is just an inverter.)
/O15 = A0 * /A1 * /A2 * /A3 * /A4 * A5 * A6 * /A7 * /A8 * A9 * MEMEN
/O16 = A0 * /A1 * /A2 * /A3 * /A4 * A5 * A6 * /A7 * A8 * /A9 * MEMEN
 O17 = O15 * O16   (Note here that this is an AND gate.)
```

Please note that two of the outputs are active high, and two are active low.

I guarantee you that these equations are correct, as my clock has been running with a PAL in it for a while now, with no problems whatsoever! Notice that ALL the logic IC's have been eliminated! That brings us to other idea(s).....

WHAT IF....

Someone built a "baby board" that plugs into a ramdisk card into the same chip slots as the buffer chip area, and the buffer chips (three 74LS244, and one 74LS245 chip) get unplugged from the ramdisk, and plug into the baby board. Also on the "baby board" there would be three other chips: one 74LS245, one PAL, and one Clock chip! All the address and data, and power connections would come from the four interconnected IC sockets, and the only wire that would be necessary would be the /RDBENA connection to pin 11 of the ramdisk card! How bout that for a NO-SLOT modification?! OR, you could do what I did: Use a Protoboard and add six chips, and you have an instant clock! OR, if you have a PORTABLE, you could use some of that extra space to add the clock to the "Expansion Board". That's the direction I am headed?! I have decided that when I get ready, the next thing that goes in the Portable is this THREE CHIP CLOCK!!!

The beauty of PALS is that they can reduce the board layout size of combinational logic circuits tremendously. It does take expensive equipment to program them, however, so it is important to get your math correct before you pay to have a PAL burned. I have provided you with the correct math, so, a good part of the troubleshooting has been done for you! This circuit only takes up 40% of the available outputs on a 20L10 or C22V10 chip. So now you ask, "Why use a device with obviously so much unused space??"

THAT IS A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME!!!!!!
(To be continued at a later time.)

# MINUTES BY MARCY

The Executive Board Meeting of December 2,1989 was brought to order at 11:30am. The agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

- Don Jones thanked all the members who volunteered their time in making the 1989 TI Faire a great success. He gave a special thank you to Sandy Bartels, Marcy Brun and Christine Chambers for coordinating the whole event.

- Don also thanked all the members and the Executive Board for their help to make his presidency a success. This is the last meeting that Don is heading. Starting January, the meetings will be run by the new Executive Board Officers which will be elected at this meeting.

- In January we will be meeting at a new place. This will be at St. Nicolai Church located at 3002 N. Kedzie in Chicago. There was a suggestion that we send a postcard regarding this to all the local members to remind them. Another suggestion was brought up to put a flyer in the newsletter regarding the new meeting place, and make sure the newsletters get out earlier than usual so people have them in time. Upon this note, Bob Demeter brought up that the new deadline for getting any and all newsletter articles in is the 10th of each month. This way people will get their newsletters before the meetings. In the next newsletter there should be a map of how to get to the new meeting place.

- There was a discussion on starting the Special Interest Groups again in January. Many of the members feel that these groups are very important to help other members learn more of what they want to learn on their TI. We only have ten meetings a year. Three of these meetings are already designated. These are the Faire, the Auction, and the Swap. At the new meeting place we will have space to have the SIG's meet. So if anyone is interested in running a SIG or attending a SIG, please coordinate it to start January.

- Dan Eicher wrote a letter to Texas Instruments requesting permission to reprint some of their material. They gave him permission on the condition that no charge be assessed for the information. Since there is an expense for us for printing, we will have to further research this as to Texas Instruments' legal department would wave that stipulation if we promised to charge only enough to cover our printing and handling costs.

- There was a discussion on soliciting new in-town and out-of-town members. After the discussion, there was a motion on the floor. The motion was that we give Marcy Brun, who will be the new Publicity Chairman, the authority to do whatever advertising is necessary to solicit new members. There was also a second motion to allocate $200 a month for Marcy to use as she feels necessary for advertising. Both these motions were voted and passed. One point brought up was that a lot of people join a group as an out of town member just for the newsletter because it is a good one. This brought on a discussion of bringing our newsletter up to higher standards. This would include having advertisements in it as before. One suggestion was to put in the newsletter a discount coupon for a library order to promote more orders.

- There was a discussion on the appearance of our newsletter. Some members felt that there should be more articles on the TI instead of just articles talking about what is going on. Sandy Bartels suggested that we take an article from our Hardware Manual or from our TI Writer Manual and put it in the newsletter each month. This would be advertisement for these manuals which may promote people to order the books.

Another suggestion was that we start soliciting members from out of town to submit articles for the newsletter. (I hope you all realize that this is your newsletter, and you are all welcomed and invited to submit articles to it.) It will be suggested to Bob Demeter to put in the newsletter that we are looking for people from out of town and any members to submit articles for the newsletter and to give an incentive of a free disc with each article.

- There was a motion that we make a committee to research changing or keeping the dues the same or changing the dues being due the month the person joins the group or keeping it from January to December. Also they will research the issue of sending new and/or renewals the back issues of the newsletter that they missed.

- Don gave a special thank you to Laura Heiberger for her great efforts of stepping in and helping out at the Faire. Laura showed up early in the morning to jump in where ever needed. She helped Jan Janowski make sure all the vendors had the equipment that they needed. This was a big task considering that we came up with the problem of no electric on one side of the room. After finishing up this task, she immediately stepped in at the library and any other table that looked like it needed help. This is why our Faire is produced so well. Because we have a lot of good members that are willing to give a helping hand when its needed. A special thank you to all of you.

- The library in Skokie has accepted our offer to receive Micropendium Magazines with our information on them. It was suggested that Don also check with them to see if they would be interested in receiving some of our back issues of the newsletter. If anyone else knows of a library that would be interested in the project, please contact Don Jones on the hot line.

- Hal Shanafield has been saving all the extra newsletters in his basement for us. He mentioned that he has to get rid of some of them to make more room. It was suggested that he give several issues to new members who join. Also if anyone is doing promotion or advertising for the group and needs any issues to give out, please contact Hal through the hot line or BBS.
- James Brooks, our Membership Chairman, stated that 22 new persons joined our group at the Faire because of the letter we sent out to the attendees of the 1988 Faire. This brings us up to 455 members.

- We are in need of a fine organized member to step forward and volunteer to run the Faire for 1990. This year it was proven to be very efficient and easy by having three persons Chairing this position. One to organize and coordinate the total event; another one to do the mailings; and another one to be in charge of the registration for the mixer, faire and dinner. In this way, the work is not all on one person. If you would like to volunteer, don't be shy, step forward. Remember, this is our big event, and the show must go on.

There was then a discussion on the Faire, its prices, and different aspects. However, there was a motion to table the discussion until another time after we received the financials of the outcome of the Faire. There was a discussion on opening the Faire to other computers and people. However, this discussion was tabled until we have the financial report on the Faire at a later date. Also the motion was passed that we table this discussion until we get a new Chairman/Chairmen for the Faire.

- The Education Chairman, Ernie Pergrem is putting together a catalog of all the educational programs. As far as our section on DELPHI, we have to start getting new files up there. He has not had any time to do this. If any of you go on Delphi, please call the hot line to volunteer to help Ernie with this project.

- The events of the next few meetings will include a video tape of the Faire taken by one of our members. Also we will be showing a video tape put together by one of our members on how to build a computer desk. This video tape has also been donated to our library for members to borrow and return.

- Hal Shanafield suggested that we pick a date now for when we would like to have our picnic so he could reserve that location and date. The cost would be $50. Hal was given the authority to make the reservation and to pick a date which he feels would be good since he is the person organizing it. At this time we know that the picnic will be in July. So plan on attending. The last picnic was a blast for all of all ages.

- Tony pleaded for people to get their entries to him for the programing contest. He does not want to be deluged right before the contest in April. Right now he only has one entry.

- There was a suggestion on the floor to give the past presidents who are still contributing to the group and interested in TI to give them an honorary lifetime membership. After discussion of this it was decided to table this until another meeting because we were running out of time.

- Froggy has not put up the new system on the BBS yet because he needs two more things to be able to do it. When he does get the new system up, he will have a whole new set of programs up on the board.

- Please get a hold of the November Micropendium. There is a big article of our Faire written by John Koloen, the Editor. Thank you John. We hope you enjoyed yourself while visiting us and we invite you back again next year. The Executive Board Meeting was ended at 12:20.

At the General Meeting today we were ready to vote for the new Executive Board Officers. However, there was only one nomination for each position. Therefore, there was a motion that we accept the entire slate. This motion was passed. Therefore, the new Executive Officers are: Ernie Pergrem as President; Don Jones as Vice President; Oscar Bretana as Treasurer. No one ran or accepted nomination for Secretary, so that position is still open. If anyone would like to accept this position, please step forward.

The General Meeting was over at 3:00 and the Swapping of all kinds of TI and electronic equipment began. Everything from magazines, total systems, modems and VCRs were swapped or purchased.

Submitted by: Marcy Brun, Secretary.

P.S. I would like to thank everyone for reading my article of the minutes and letting me know that you liked them. It makes me feel good to know that I did a good job of bringing the meetings to you. I look forward to personally meeting all of you sometime. Hopefully at the 1990 TI Faire Convention!!!

# GENEVE SUPPORT ARTICLE...

Howdy doody there, sports fan!!! Well, the 1989 Faire has both come and gone. It was another fine Faire put on by our own great and beloved Sandy Bartels. Thanks, Sandy, for another Faire well done. Later, in this article, I will talk about some of the Geneve related things in this Faire, but, before I start to talk about that particular subject, I have a few other things which I have not mentioned in my earlier articles as I was always running out of space.

In this article, I wish to tie up all of those loose ends. I think that this is a good way to end the year.

First, did you know that MY-Word supports your hard drive path names? I didn't know this until I tried it out and found that it worked the first time. (It works with the SF, LF, SP, and SD commands. As an example, the article is stored under the following path name: "WDS1.WP.CTIUG.ARTICLES.DECEMBERGS". Please notice that a period (".") separates the root directory and each of the subdirectories. The whole operation is both very logical and very useful.

Second, I was having a serious problem with loading MDMV (Myarc's disk manager for the Myarc HFDC) when I had my newer version HRD in my PEB. (The newer version HRD's use 32K chips, and the address lines on these chips are 16 bits instead of the 8 bit address lines which were used on my earlier 256K HRD.) Anyway, I was unable to load MDMV without my system locking up. I immediately thought that it was a problem with the MDMV software. Speaking with my good friend, Don Walden, the president of the Milwaukee TI Users' Group and the Wisconsin TI Council, I found that the MDMV software was definitely NOT at fault, and he told me that Ron Walters had devised a hardware fix for the problem. Knowing this, I then asked a friend of mine, Ernie Pergrem, who I know gets on Delphi to leave a message for Ron asking him what the fix is. Ron replied back to Ernie and gave him the details of a software fix! I am now quoting Ron's reply: "I assume the HRD you are referring to is a 16 bit Horizon. If so, the problem you describe can be corrected by clearing the 16 Bit DSR space (actually only the first word) on the HRD which is at CRU address 1600. The easiest way to do this is in GPL with DEBUG as follows: 1.) Enter DEBUG and type "M 8002" at the dot prompt. The contents should be "0736". Change this to "BA36" (this sets the memory mapper to the DSR page BA). 2.) Enter "C 1600" at the dot prompt, then respond by entering "0001" to turn on the HRD (the light on the card will turn on). 3.) Enter "M 4000" to look at the first location of the DSR on the HRD. Zero this by entering "0000". 4.) Enter "C 1600", and then enter "0000" to turn the card off. This should allow MDM to load successfully." (Since the writing of the preceding lines, my friend, Don Walden, the president of the Wisconsin TI Council and the Milwaukee 4A Users' Group, has come up with a couple of short programs which do the very same thing as what I have described that I have been doing with DEBUG. His method is a lot faster and easier to use, but both work. I will be placing his short files up on our group's bbs for all Geneve users to have access to.)

Well, sports fans, I had never used DEBUG before, and I had to be told by my friend, Mr. Hank Ellermann, that DEBUG could be found on one of the two disks which came with my Editor/Assembler cartridge. It is a DF/80 file which loads under editor/assembler option #3. Once it is loaded, it will ask you for the file name. To this prompt, just hit enter once. The screen now asks for a program name. To this, just respond with the name "DEBUG". You are now ready to perform step one in the above paragraph. You will therefore find the procedure a very simple and easy one to perform. Anyway, I can now use my 16 bit HRD, with 32K chips with my HFDC! Am I happy???

My third item is a hint which I read in a back issue of MICROpendium Magazine: Norberto P. Bettinelli wrote that holding down the "Caps key" will speed the movement of the cursor. (I didn't know this though I did know that holding down the Ctrl key will speed the movement of the cursor.) This is a useful thing to know when it is necessary for you to repeat a particular character a great number of times, such as when drawing lines on a page.)

My fourth item has to do with the loading of Multiplan from my hard drive. I never really had a problem loading Multiplan, but I did have a problem getting the "HELP" feature to work when I loaded Multiplan from my hard drive. This fix comes from a man who I call Dr. John. His correct name is John Birdwell, the author of MDMV, for the Myarc HFDC, and his own fine program Disk Utilities. John told me to copy my Multiplan files to a floppy disk. I was to then to use his program Disk Utilities and go to the FDR (File Directory Record) sector. In the 12th byte of this sector, I was to change the 0A to 02. I was then to copy my

files to my hard drive. I am now able to load Multiplan, and my "HELP" file option works flawlessly from my hard drive. Relative to this, I must also mention that my Multiplan files are at the subdirectory named "DSK1", but my "MPHLP" file is located at the subdirectory named "WDS1.DSK.TIMP". This constitutes no problem for me, and everything works just fine. I also might mention that I never had any idea of where to find the FDR sector on the disk, so what I did was just to scan the disk until I found the first sector that had 0A at the 12th byte. On my disk, this came out to be either sector 57, if I remember correctly. Anyway, using John Birdwell's Disk Utilities, I had no problems doing the job. (If you are unfamiliar with this program, please check it out. You need it whether you run a 4A or a Genny. BTW, don't forget to send Dr. John a check for the small money which he is asking for this program. It will also get you the complete documentation for this fine program.) If you use Multiplan and want to be able to have total use of it while running your hard drive, this fix will solve a big problem for you. If there is a need for me to upload a fixed version to the group's bbs, I will be happy to do this.

Now for item number five: Have you had a problem loading Charles Earl's fine terminal emulator program, TELCO, from your hard drive with your Genny. The fix for this problem is a simple one: Just hold down the "Enter" key as you are loading the program. It will then give you the path of the last storage device detected. You must then change this path to the path name of where the TELCO files are located. In my case, my path name is as follows: "WDS1.COMM.TEL." IMPORTANT NOTE: You MUST end your path name with a period ("."). Without the period, you can't get the path to work or the TELCO program to load.

Item number six has to do with the loading of Funnel Web: First, you must configure the file program so that it is custom tailored to your system, as it exists, and so that it meets your needs. After you have done this, run the file "CT8RAM". By doing this, you will convert your customized version of Funnel Web into a "cartridge" format, similar to the ones which are generated by CSAVE. You can then load this "cartridge" into the GPL memory space. I don't use Funnel Web, but the "fix," which I saw in an old copy of MICROpendium looked sort of neat, so I thought that I would pass it on to those of you who continue to use Funnel Web and would like to continue to do so.

My last item regards TI Artist: I have had a lot of problems with how to load this program from my hard drive. (I will later be writing an article on why I am still devoted to TI Artist, and why I have invested in TI Artist Plus.) I finally figured it out: You must create a subdirectory path like this: "DSK.INSCEBOT". Place all of your files in the "INSCEBOT" subdirectory. Then, when you run the Extended BASIC file "@NEWPATH", use "DSK.INSCEBOT" for the path name. You can then load EITHER the DF/80 file version (ARTIST) OR the program image file version (ARTIST1). If you wish to load your TI Artist program with the aid of a GPL menu program, you will have to use the latter name, as you need to load the E/A option #5 version from a menu.

That's it!!! Using this method, all modules of this program will come directly off of your hard drive!!! (Incidentally, you will only need to run the "@NEWPATH" program only once. After that, you can load the TI Artist program off of your hard drive without running "@NEWPATH" again.) If you don't have a hard drive yet, I suggest that when you want to use TI Artist, you should use a disk manager program, like John Birdwell's Disk Utilities to load all of the necessary TI Artist files onto your built in RAM disk (DSK5). Then, when you run the @NEWPATH program, your path will be "DSK5".

Now, onto something new: At last year's Chicago TI Faire, I picked up some software that only now have I had the chance to play with and use. (I say this so that you can see how hectic my schedule has been.) One of those software items is the art/graphics program by Ms. Cynthia Becker called MY-Art Coloring Book. This drawing program was designed to be used within the MY-Art graphic program environment on the Geneve 9640 Home Computer, and it is available from Asgard Software. Before I go any further, I want to say that I have a very particular respect for Ms. Becker; I have a deep respect for her artistic abilities. I

remember that when MY-Art first came out, Ms. Becker would occasionally upload some of her art work experiments to some of the various TI boards and information services. In the beginning, much of her work was in the realm of the "cartoon," and some of it was somewhat "basic," but, I hasten to add, this was only her beginning. As time passed, her work became less rudimentary, and she began to expand beyond the area of cartoon work. Later, at my request, Ms. Becker sent me some examples of her work, which by that time had little resemblance to her earlier work. In fact, I was very amazed at the development of her artistic abilities. It was as if I had been able to view and track the development of what was clearly a most prodigious talent. (Her creation called HRACOON is one particularly fine example of the work which she sent to me.) I say all this to give you some background on how I feel about the artistic abilities and the expertise of Ms. Becker, the creator of the work on this disk. Clearly, Ms. Becker's work is important to me relative to my Genny. Her work has done for me what the work of my friend, Mr. Edward ("The Mighty Buzzard") Krantz, has done for me relative to my 4A. As "Buzz" Krantz's art work for the 4A gave me a new estimation and view of my 4A, Ms. Becker's work was the first art work to demonstrate to me what can be done on a Genny. We can have all of the best hardware and software in the world, but without the creative talents of the Beckers and "Buzz" Krantzes of the world, it will mean nothing. What is a Stradivarius Violin without a Heifitz or Kreisler to play it??? I feel the same way about a computer.

Now that you may have some idea of how I feel about Ms. Becker's work, let's talk about her MY-Art Coloring Book: It comes with two disks and a short documentation manual, as very little documentation is needed for this program. The two disks contain the following: Outline art work in both high and low resolution formats, examples of Ms. Becker's artwork, that has been completely "colored in," and a short DV/80 file giving a listing of the names of the artwork on the two disks. This list also indicates the kind of resolution that was used for each picture. The purpose of this software package is to allow a child (this could also be used by any young person or even an adult with good effect) to color in the outline drawings which Ms. Becker provides. This also requires using the pencil icon, in the drawing mode, to "touch up" some of the outlines. (Backgrounds can also be added to the existing art work.) During the process of filling in, if the user is dissatisfied with his/her first choice of colors, he/she can substitute it with another, as MY-Art allows this type of activity. I might also mention that one of the first things that I noticed is that Ms. Becker has already altered the "color palettes" in the high resolution outlines, and her choices are probably those colors that the user may want to use for the drawing to be filled in. If the user wishes to use different colors, the "color palettes" can be easily changed; the MY-Art documentation clearly explains how. Most of the drawings on the disks are cartoon like characters, and many of them are "take-offs" of Disney characters. Ms. Becker has rendered them quite skillfully. For a young person, this program might be an ideal "coloring" program. An adult may be a little bored with it, but as I have absolutely NO artistic skills, it was not a boring thing for me to color the various outlines. I might also mention that I have been doing the same thing with MacPaint pictures which I have converted into either TI Artist or MY-Art format. For this reason, Ms. Becker's program is definitely worth the cost of the program. Also, it is one great way to become familiar with the work of a truly talented artist. I would encourage Ms. Becker to sell us a "slide show," with a script, of many of her creations, which could be run using Paul Charlton's Picture Transfer. I feel that she is a lot better at tastefully coloring in her own art work than I ever will be. Still, I find the exercise to be a therapeutic one, after a particularly tough day in "the trenches."

Before I sign off, I just want to say that I still have a few pieces of software which I acquired last year which I have not yet had the time to get into. Well, I think that now is the time for me to "get on the stick" with them. I therefore hope to look at them before the holidays. I am speaking of Calendar

Maker 99, Batch It, and PrEditor. (I hope to soon purchase the disk of Calendar Maker Utilities so that I can review them both together.) All of these programs are from Asgard. They are the last items that I need to look at so that my software revieving schedule will be clear of items from last year.

This year, I have acquired so much that I hardly know where to begin; it is almost like an embarrassment of riches. You can therefore look forward to reviews on The Printer's Apprentice (the MDOS version), Legends II, TRIS, TI Artist Plus, Graphics Expander, Browse, Giant Artist Posters, music disks from Harrison software, Living Tomb, IdentiFile, AV-Index, Music Pro, Wizard's End, Karate Challenge, Mission Destruct, and, last but not least, Page Pro 99.

I am now ready to write about this fine program as I have just used it as part of a sort of a "baptism by fire." I used it to generate the covers of a newsletter for my religious group; it worked out very well, and I will report on it in detail. I will also be using The Printer's Apprentice to do the same job. It will be an interesting comparison.

One short word about one particularly interesting piece of hardware which I saw at this year's Faire. It is a device named "MEMEX." It is a memory expansion card for the 9640. It was designed and developed by Ron Walters, and it is being distributed by Bud Mills Services. It supports "Zero Wait State" operation and can be expanded up to TWO MEG. One day, I will get one of these babies, and then I will really have something quite extensive to say about it at that time.

Well, I guess that I have talked too much again. I hope that the above stuff is of interest and help to someone out there. It's super nice when I meet some of you at a Faire or a meeting and have you tell me that you read and enjoy these articles. I also feel that if the majority of the readers of this newsletter feel that they are of no value, I should then stop writing them. Well, I think that I will have a lot of nice stuff to play with during my winter holiday vacation. I wish to all of you the most blessed and pleasant of holidays. Until then,

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# WANTED

The Chicago TImes is looking for authors. If you have a talent you would like to share with us, please consider writing articles for the newsletter. If not monthly, as often as you can would be nice. All members are always interested in reading and learning things about our TI based machines. Hardware how-to's and modifications are always nice. Software reviews are just as good. If you would like to share information on a certain programming languages that would be great too. Any articles related to the use, abuse, caring and sharing of the TI are fine.

We would like to get out as much info about our TI based machines as possible. Please, consider writing an article for this newsletter. This is an open invitation to all authors. You need not be a member to submit articles. Just be very careful about submitting copyrighted material. Please read Editor's Notes on back page for information on getting your submissions to us. Always try the group's BBS first. The BBS or direct mail are the easiest ways to get things to me. Uploading to me should be a last stitch measure.

THANKYOU!

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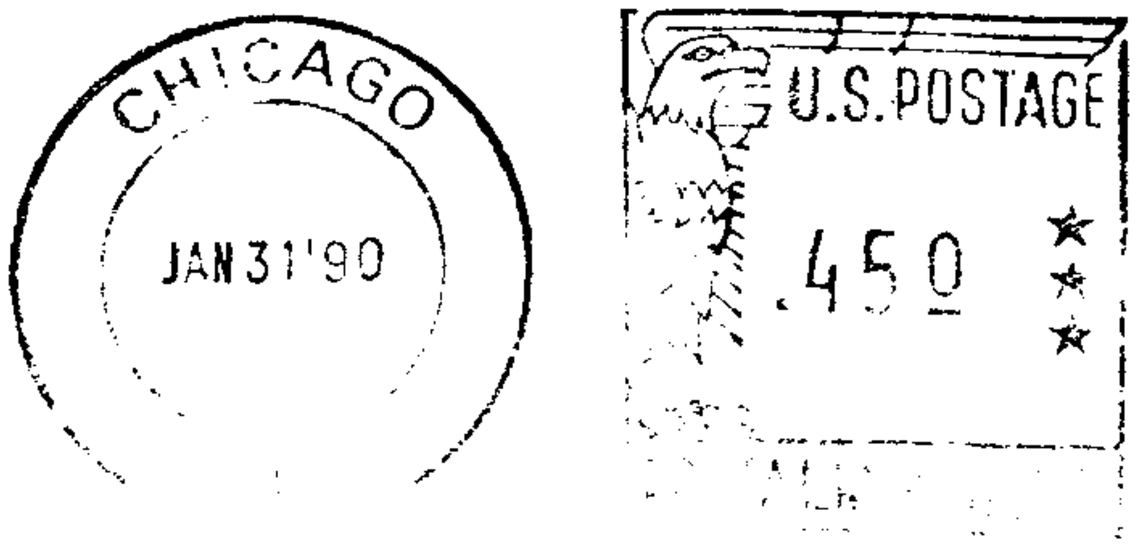


# Editor's Notes...

I hope everyone is having or is going to have a Happy New Year. Here we are at the beginning of a new decade. Let's make GOOD use of it.

With deep regrets we must say goodbye to Bill Gaskill and his FOUR/A-TALK article. Bill has decided to spend more time with the family. From the looks of his articles, you can tell he puts many hours into them. As a ex-librarian, I know what it's like to spend 40 hours a week at the computer. All this in the name of TI users. Wives and families get very little time when you make TI volunteering your second job. All of us will miss your articles, Bill. But I know your wife and family will be glad to have you back. I have received your Product Review disk. It will appear next month. Good luck skiing. Don't break a leg. You might have to start writing again.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, I have changed the deadline for newsletter submissions to the 10th of the month. 99% of the time I get the newsletter on Tues. before the meeting. This means I must get to the post office Wed. morning. It's very difficult for me to seal, post mark and sometimes label over 600 newsletters in one night. The 5 extra days will really help me out. Thanks!

This is not meant as a complaint. But, I must state the fact. Myself and others sometimes have difficulty getting on the group's BBS. Mike is very busy with school and work. He doesn't always notice the BBS is down. If you have trouble uploading your articles to the BBS, consider uploading directly to me. This is not my BBS. I just happen to have a program that allows my computer a HOST mode. I will leave my machine in HOST mode on the 9th & 10th from 2:30pm to midnight. BTW, the BIT BUCKET BBS at 219 659-1245 is no longer available. So, upload to the BBS or me. Also you may mail to me at 2139 Lake Ave. Whiting, In. 46394-1833 -bd

Please remember subscriptions usually run from January to December. If you have not paid your dues yet, better do so soon. This could be your last copy of Chicago TImes. Mail your $21.00 dues to The Chicago Area TI 99/4A User's Group. The group's P.O. Box is listed above.

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